BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number	§	AGREED
501178 and Vocational Nurse License Number	§	
51985 issued to JOY K. HILLIN	§	ORDER

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boa considered the matter of JOY K. HILLIN, Registered Nurse License Number 501178 and Vocational Nurse License Number 51985, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 21, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license.

2. Respondent waived informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.

3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas and holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which is in delinquent status.

4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Lamar Vocational Nursing Program, Beaumont, Texas on January 10, 1972. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on April 11, 1972. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Professional Nursing from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, on May 14, 1982. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 15, 1982.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

1/72-7/07	LVN/RN	Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth Beaumont, Texas
8/07- 1/08	Unknown	
2/08-Present	LVN/RN	Baptist Orange Hospital Orange, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed with Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth, Beaumont, Texas, as a Registered Nurse and was on medical leave from September 2006, through July 2007. Respondent had been in this position for approximately thirty-five (35) years.

7. On or about January 9, 2007, while employed with Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth, Beaumont, Texas, and on medical leave, Respondent was admitted to ICU due to an accidental drug overdose and notified her Nursing Administrator that she had been hospitalized for chemical dependency.

8. On or about August 24, 2007, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), Respondent produced a specimen for drug screening which resulted positive for Propoxyphene. The use of Propoxyphene by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

9. On or about September 4, 2007, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) Respondent ingested Tramadol in violation of her TPAPN agreement The use of Tramadol by a nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

10. Respondent states that on September 10, 2007, she entered Right Choice Intensive Outpatient Treatment facility. Respondent states in addition to her treatment at Right Choice, she attends weekly La Hacienda aftercare meetings and AA meetings. Respondent states she's working diligently toward her goal of recovery.

11. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.

12. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care if nurses with the disease of addiction are not properly treated.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.

2. Notice was served in accordance with law.

3. The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12),Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(E),(5),(10)(A)&(D)&(11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 501178 and Vocational Nurse License Number 51985, heretofore issued to JOY K. HILLIN, including revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 501178 and Vocational Nurse License Number 51985, previously issued to JOY K. HILLIN, to practice professional and vocational nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of three (3) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate privilege, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this order the Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act,

Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *et seq.* and this Order.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to JOY K. HILLIN, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of this Order.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.*

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL

SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR THREE (3) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) OR VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(6) For the first year of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another

professional nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(7) For the remainder of the probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Respondent is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse except that RESPONDENT may be employed with Baptist Orange Hospital, Orange, Texas and work on the night shift provided RESPONDENT meets stipulations four (4) through fifteen (15). Should RESPONDENT'S employment with Baptist Orange Hospital, Orange, Texas cease, then the prohibition against practicing as a nurse on the night shift is reestablished.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care

units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(11) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for three (3) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

(12) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. **In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled

substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis is the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT's place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

(14) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each

week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

(15) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order, undergo a pain management evaluation. The evaluation shall be performed by a Board approved Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy, licensed by the Texas Medical Board, and certified as a Diplomat with the American Board of Pain Medicine. The evaluation shall be completed within sixty (60) days from the date of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the performing physician to send a report of the evaluation to the Board office. The report shall include:

1. The clinical indications and medication regimen, if any, consisting of non-addictive, non-mood-altering substance(s), or rationale for the chronic use of controlled substances;
2. A statement as to the RESPONDENT's fitness to safely practice nursing while taking the prescribed medication(s); and
3. Recommendations for pain management therapy and/or other follow-up(s).

If the evaluation states that Respondent lacks fitness to practice nursing, RESPONDENT SHALL cease to provide direct patient care until such time that the same evaluator deems Respondent safe to return to direct patient care. Direct patient care involves a personal relationship between the Nurse

and the client, and includes, but is not limited to: teaching; counseling; assessing the client's needs and strengths; and providing skilled nursing care. If the results of the evaluation reveal further violations of the Nursing Practice Act, further disciplinary action may be taken, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the recommendations for pain management and/or other follow-ups. If pain management therapy is recommended, RESPONDENT SHALL participate in pain management therapy with a Board approved Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy, licensed by the Texas Medical Board, and certified as a Diplomat with the American Board of Pain Medicine. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the physician to submit written reports to the Board, which shall include, at a minimum, the clinical indications and rationale for the chronic use of controlled substances, RESPONDENT's progress and compliance with pain management therapy, and a prognosis as to RESPONDENT's ability to safely practice nursing in a direct patient care setting. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of probation period, or until RESPONDENT no longer requires the use of addictive, mood-altering, and/or controlled substances.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT's license and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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04/21/2010 12:09 RECEIVED 04/21/2010 13:12 5123056870 2103773757 BNE IHFE ASSOC ET AL PAGE 12/13

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to settle this matter, to avoid further disciplinary action and the expense and uncertainty of trial. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 26th day of April, 2010

JOY K. HILLIN, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of April, 2010.

SEAL

Stormy H. Barrow

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

STORMY H. BARROW
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
June 9, 2013

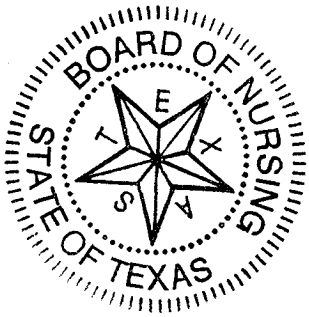
Approved as to form and substance

Elizabeth L. Higginbotham, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 27th day of April, 2010

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 26th day of April, 2010, by JOY K. HILLIN, Registered Nurse License Number 501178 and Vocational License Number 51985, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8th day of June, 2010.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board